

ABSTRACT

5           A method and apparatus for making carbon/carbon composite disks for braking applications that employs a continuous feeding of fiber strands into a mold. The fibers are then compressed to form a mat or preform. The fibers are then needled such that the fibers within the mat interlock and extend in various directions. The mat or preform is then subjected to densification processing. In order to enhance the effectiveness of the  
10 densification process and/or to speed up the processing time, a filler is added to the preform during the manufacturing process. The fillers are added by way of a dry powder or as a liquid slurry. The filler may be aluminum oxide, boron carbide, silicon carbide, pitch, or a variety of carbonic or noncarbonic performance enhancers.